

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Thailand/Great Britain

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SUBJECT Efforts to Obtain Price Increases for Thai Rice Exports

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1. A closed conference was held during the week of 24-30 September 1950 to discuss Thailand's rice surplus to be made available for export during 1951. It was estimated that the amount of rice available will be between 650,000 and 675,000 tons. The original estimate was 800,000 tons.*
2. The total tonnage of rice available for export in 1951 will be closely guarded to ensure a better bargaining position for Thailand in discussions with the British aimed at obtaining an increase in rice prices. The Thai decision to try to increase rice prices was taken in retaliation against British efforts at a recent conference to decrease Thai rice prices.
3. Burma is expected to support Thailand's demands for higher prices.

* Comment. The Bangkok Post of 29 September 1950 states: "Doubts that Thailand's rice surplus for next year will total even the conservative estimate of 800,000 tons fixed in the 1951 Budget for Anticipated Income were expressed today by officials of both the Ministries of Agriculture and of Commerce...A conference was called this week by Minister of Commerce Maj. Gen. Phra Boriphan Yutthakit to discuss the matter. Others attending include Phra Norarat Chamnong, Undersecretary of Commerce, Phra Prakas Sahakorn, Undersecretary of Agriculture, and Luang Inkgasi Kasilkarn, Director-General of the Agriculture Department..."

25X1A Comment. For additional information revealing the extent of Boriphan's implication in rice deals with various buyers, including the Chinese Communists, see

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